



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEDERAL FUGITIVE PLEADS GUILTY TO FIREARMS VIOLATION

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a former Joplin, Mo., man has pleaded guilty in federal court to being a fugitive from justice and a convicted felon in possession of several firearms.

Edward L. Raifsnider, 46, also known as Larry E. Killion, of Branson, Mo., and formerly of Joplin, pleaded guilty on Sept. 1, 2005, to the charge contained in a May 4, 2005, federal indictment.

By pleading guilty, **Raifsnider** admitted that he was in possession of a Browning 12-gauge shotgun, a Winchester .222-caliber rifle, a Remington 20-gauge shotgun and a Savage Arms .22-caliber rifle and ammunition on Aug. 1, 2004, in Taney County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who is a fugitive from justice and anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Raifsnider** has 16 criminal felony convictions, including convictions for burglary in three different jurisdictions and escape in two jurisdictions.

At the time he was in possession of the firearms, Graves said, **Raifsnider** was being sought by both federal and Iowa law enforcement officers. A federal warrant for **Raifsnider's** arrest was issued in 2002 for violation of supervised release. While he was still a fugitive, **Raifsnider** was indicted on May 8, 2003, for being a felon in possession of a firearm. That indictment was later replaced by superseding indictments, which included the additional firearms charge to which **Raifsnider** pleaded guilty. In addition, a warrant for **Raifsnider's** arrest was issued in Iowa in November 2002 on the charge of vehicle theft.

Raifsnider has a 1998 criminal felony conviction for use of a false Social Security number; 1993 criminal felony convictions for four counts of breaking and entering in Hamilton

County, Ohio; 1989 criminal felony convictions for seven counts of theft and two counts of passing a bad check in Hamilton County; two 1988 criminal felony convictions for burglary and two for stealing in Maries County, Mo.; 1988 criminal felony convictions for burglary and stealing in Pulaski County, Mo.; three 1988 criminal felony convictions for burglary in Phelps County, Mo.; a 1985 criminal felony conviction for forgery in Wabash County, Ill.; a 1985 criminal felony conviction for violation of bail bond in White County, Ill.; 1982 criminal felony convictions for two counts of theft in White County; a 1982 criminal felony conviction for escape in Hamilton County; 1982 criminal felony convictions for three counts of obtaining money by false pretenses in Stephens County, Okla.; a 1982 criminal felony conviction for obtaining cash by bogus check in Carter County, Okla.; a 1982 criminal felony conviction for forgery in Hamilton County; a 1980 criminal felony conviction for escape in Multnomah County, Ore.; and a 1980 criminal felony conviction for theft in Hamilton County.

Under federal statutes, **Raifsnider** could be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard E. Monroe. It was investigated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the U.S. Marshal Service.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow